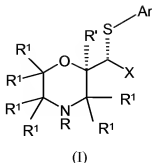


**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

R is H;

Ar is an aromatic group selected from unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), halo, and phenyl optionally substituted with halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl);

X is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), and halo;

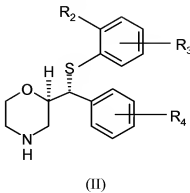
R' is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

each R<sup>1</sup> is independently H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

wherein each above-mentioned C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, represented by formula II:



in which  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are each independently selected from H,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl,  $O(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $S(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl), halo, and phenyl; and

$R_4$  is selected from H,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl,  $O(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl) and halo;

wherein each above-mentioned  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from  $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl,  $O(C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl),  $S(C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl), Cl and F wherein each above-mentioned  $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein  $R_3$  is selected from H, Me and Cl.

5. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed in claim 4, wherein  $R_4$  is selected from H,  $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl,  $O(C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl), Cl and F wherein each above-mentioned  $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

6-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 or 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

16. (New) A method for treating persistent pain, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound as claimed in Claim 1.